

Hello, my name is Laura Bonucchi. I am a design student who has recently graduated from Michigan State University's FIDER accredited Interior Design program. I would first like to thank rep. Huezinga and rep. Mieznier for being here.

I have been involved with the efforts of CIDR for the past two years. I became involved because I have a sincere interest in the secured future of my chosen profession.

I graduated with a class of 47 students who are extremely supportive of the efforts of CIDR. I would also like to add that entry into the Interior Design program at MSU is limited on a competitive basis, strictly based on grade point average . Students who are admitted are not only creative, but also top students who value their education and training in Interior Design. Students enter into this curriculum with great optimism and look forward to a rewarding career.

I , along with my classmates, am very concerned about the future of my profession. It is very discouraging to know that my ability to practice Interior Design within the scope that I have been trained at MSU's *state funded* program, is being strictly limited. After taking an informal survey of the students in my class, ONLY 3 out of 47 were planning to stay in the state of Michigan to look for employment. There is a great concern that the scope of interior design practice is becoming extremely limited, due to the requirement of the architects stamp. Many of my peers are moving to other states that are not as restrictive. These are states that do offer licensing, such as Illinois and Georgia. One of the overriding factors for this is the hostile environment, and that currently Michigan is not a friendly place for designers to do business.  
Thank-you for your time.